Picturing Math Development

Illustrations of infants, toddlers and preschoolers will be put on this cover page

Number and Operations

Picture: Adult or older child holding two toys, one in each hand, in front of supine or propped up infant; infant attending to toy – looking and reaching

Looks at one toy then at another

Bayley, 2006

Picture: Adult near infant who is sitting independently and shaking a rattle

Plays with one toy at a time

Langer, 2003; Bayley, 2006

Picture: Adult with infant in high chair holding a ring in each hand bringing his hands toward midline

Plays with two toys at the same time

Langer, 2003; Parks, 2004

Picture: Infant sitting independently on a blanket on floor, adding an object to a pile of objects

Makes groups of objects, then changes amount

Parks, 2004; Langer, 2003

Picture: Toddler standing holding one shoe, looking under the table

Looks for missing object from a pair or group of three

Feigenson & Carey, 2003; Wagner & Walters, 1982; Starkey, 1992 Picture: Toddler putting two plates on the table. One plate in front of friend who is seated at the table and second plate at the child's chair

Hands out objects giving one to each person

Mix, et al, 2002; Mix, 2002

Picture: Child sitting at the table with a bowl of raisins with a cartoon bubble with the words the child is speaking: "I have a lot."

Talks about quantity using words like "a lot," "many," "more," etc.

Wagner & Walters, 1982

Picture: Child gives two blocks to a friend who is building with blocks and needing more blocks.

Knows adding to a group makes "more," taking away objects makes "less"

Cooper, 1984; Houde, 1997; Huttenlocher, Jordan, & Levine, 1994; Sophian & Adams, 1982; Starkey, 1992

Number and Operations

Picture: Child holding a cracker in each hand with a cartoon bubble with the words the child is speaking: "I have two."

Understands and begins to use the number word "two" correctly.

Baroody, 2004; Parks, 2004; Wagner & Walters, 1982 Picture: Three-year old sitting on the floor in the block area, pointing to the last of five cars, with a cartoon bubble with the words the child is speaking: "One, two, three, four, five, six."

When asked "How many?," points to objects and says number words (may count objects twice or use numbers out of order)

Wagner & Walters, 1982

Picture: Teacher asking child for three objects, with a cartoon bubble with the words the teacher is speaking: "Give me three."

Gives one, two, three or four items upon request

Baroody, 2004

Picture: Child adds
one counting bear to two
bears on a table, with a
cartoon bubble with the
words the child is
speaking: "Now I have
three."

Correctly adds and subtracts up to three objects without counting

Baroody, 2004; Clements, 2004; Hughes, 1986; Starkey & Gelman.1982

Picture: Child putting each of his five cars in correspondence with his friends five cars, with a cartoon bubble with the words: "We have the same."

Compares two groups of objects by matching or counting for up to five objects

Clements, 2004

Picture: Adult with cartoon bubble with the words: "We need eight cups." Child counting cups, with a cartoon bubble with the words: "I have eight."

Counts up to ten objects to find out how many in a group

Baroody, 2004

Picture: Two children making a train by putting a three car train and a two car train together with adult and a cartoon bubble with the words: "How long is your train now?"

Uses counting to solve simple everyday problems with objects

Baroody & Ginsburg, 1982; Hughes, 1986; Ginsburg & Russell, 1981 Picture: Child pointing to the numeral 5 with a cartoon bubble with the words: "Five. That's how many years old I am!"

Reads some written numerals and knows their meaning

Baroody, 2004

